
ARENA REPORT

Volume III, Number 7

January 7, 1991

Happy New Year everyone!! Hope you all had a great holiday season as we gear up for "AR" in 1991. In this first issue of the new year you'll find a live NWA report from Jacksonville which took place on 12/28. Scott Hudson looks at the latest Omni card in his "Georgia Wrestling Journal". Evan Ginzburg gives his insight to the Rodney Leighton and Marianne Ryan situation here at "AR" headquarters. Mike Terry is by again with his 2 cents. And "Ramblings" and "Correspondent's Corner" will round out the issue.

The next issue of "AR" will be published on 1/21 and contain a live report from the Royal Rumble in Miami as Klon and myself will be trekking down to join Jeff Bowdren, Dave Flaherty, and Dave Meltzer for the show. We'll also have another live NWA report from Jacksonville on 1/17. Marianne Ryan returns with some more notes from the parking lot and hopefully she'll defend herself from all these nasty allegations. (I'm trying to lighten the situation.) Hopefully I can pull Klon from under his mushroom to give me another column. And we'll have a special live report from the UWF tapings which take place in New York on 1/9 by Evan Ginzburg.

A couple of business notes before we get on with the show. There was a great response to the annual. Everyone that ordered should have theirs by now. I will be doing a reprinting at the end of this month for those that didn't get a chance to order before now. So if you didn't order the annual, just send \$3.00 per copy and you'll have it in your hands by 2/7. The cost for Arena Report is now \$1.00 per issue. You may order up to as many as you like at one time. Send all subscriptions, renewals, letters, and match results to my new mailing address: Arena Report, P.O. Box 952547, Lake Mary, FL 32795. If you have the Sloewood Ct. address on your envelope, it's just because I want to use the rest of my stock on those old ones. A welcome to those seeing this sheet for the first time including those who received a flyer at the Tampa and Jacksonville shows. Without further adieu, let's go to Steve Beverly's favorite wrestling city.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

Friday, December 28, 1990

Jacksonville Coliseum

Jacksonville, FL

Opening Match

The Minotaur pinned Tim Horner in 7:16. Minotaur is Steve Disalvo who is known mainly for his work in Calgary. Has a strange gimmick that looks like Kevin Sullivan had to do with. Makes strange motions with his hands but from where we were sitting, couldn't tell if he had the albino look with two white contacts in. Lots of stalling and really slow paced. Minotaur used his arm which has a sling on it, sort of what the original Master Blaster from the AWA had, for a clothesline and then used a flying elbow for the win. Dud

2nd Match

Motor City Madman squashed Iron Priest in 2:19. Priest is a local guy who really is a priest. Could have used more prayers in this one. Total job to a sideslam. Madman is better if you can believe that. -**

Tag Team Match

Ricky Morton & Tommy Rich defeated The State Patrol in 12:41. James Earl Wright complained of a hair pull. Whay hair? The guy looks like Mr. Kleen. Patrol worked over Rich with the nightstick until the hot tag. Morton pinned Wright with a flying press after both patrolmen were going into the ropes but Tommy tripped Parker. *

4th Match

Saba Gigante squished Moondog Rex in 3:22. Guy came out dancing like Tony Atlas's character in the Fed. I guess he decided to come back from Argentina. Wish he would have missed his flight to Jacksonville again. -*** Won the bout with a boot to the face and stepped on Moondoggie for the pin.

Tag Team Match

Lex Luger & Tom Zenk beat Stan Hansen & Big Cat in 11:26. Vader was announced as injured (which is true) so Zenk took his place. It was announced that Z Man had won the TV title from Arn and he came out with the belt. How about that, one day before it aired on TV. This match was good due to Hansen who kicked Zenk's tail. Chair shots, table shots, you name it. He was out of control. While Lex and Stan brawled outside, Zenk small packaged Big Cat for the victory. ** $\frac{1}{4}$

US Tag Team Championship

The Steiner Brothers beat The Freebirds to retain the U.S. straps in 11:00. Birds are overexposed in my book. I'm bored to tears with them. While ref wasn't looking, Hayes tagged Garvin who DDT's Scott but ref made Garvin leave and Scott hit the frankensteiner on Hayes for the win. **

NWA World Championship

Sting pinned Ric Flair in 23:35 to retain the title. Sting didn't sell crap in this bout. I almost got sick when after a missed flying elbow, he shot straight up to his feet. The guy needs an attitude adjustment. How about matching him with Stan in a cage and pulling a Brody-Luger scenario from years back. Brody was shooting on Lex. Flair's new doo looks awful. Like someone put a bowl on his head and cut everything showing. What a surprise, Ric juiced. Flair went for the figure four but Sting rolled him up in a small package. What an original ending. Couldn't someone in the back have come up with anything different. Finish really pissed me off. If Ric does win the belt in N.Y., they better not come here with a rematch. No one will buy it. ** $\frac{1}{2}$

Steel Cage Match

Barry Windham & Arn Anderson beat Doom in 12:35. Non title although it was never announced as such and the program said it was for the belts. Real organized. Good brawl as expected. Teddy Long didn't come out until the 2:00 mark which made Klon note that he was probably in the can. Butch Reed must have been pumped from reading The National this week where Dave Meltzer voted him "Comeback of the Year". He was pumped. Windham took an awesome bump off the top rope and onto his back. Reed had Arn pinned but Barry came off the top with a flying elbow and Anderson scored the pinfall. *** $\frac{1}{4}$

Notes

Crowd was 5,000 which is decent but I expected better in this town. They are returning in three weeks with Luger, Sid, and Wallstreet announced..... Sign of the night during Steiner match: "Scotty has that body." Wonder if they meant Steiner or Levy.....Klon was playing his fan scan with some kids in front of us. He asked them if they preferred WWF or NWA and they said NWA. Klon says maybe we're not a dying breed after all.....Jap photog Bill Otten almost got clocked with Hansen's cowbell as Stan swung it at him at ringside. Quick reflexes Bill.

RAMBLINGS

It's official that Dusty Rhodes will be coming into the NWA to book the group. Sources say he has already called Magnum T.A. to come back as a color man. Could we see the return of "Straight Talk With The Boss"? On the other hand, Dusty told someone that he has learned his lesson about pushing friends. What is Magnum?.....Bobby Heenan passed out on a flight home to Tampa on New Years Eve morning. He was rushed to the hospital and doctors asked police to search his bag for medication. But what was found was a few grams of marijuana. When he came to and tried to pick up his bags at the airport, he was arrested and charged with possession. He was released on \$3,000 bond. What happens with his position at Titan depends on the reaction of the media. If the papers in the major cities (a.k.a. New York) make a big deal out of it, Vince will be forced to fire him (which means he'd probably be back in a few months.) and if they leave it alone, he'll get a slap on the wrist....There has been a snag in the buyout of the USWA by Joe Pedicino. It seems the contract was a little more in Jarrett's favor than Joe wanted it. The ESPN deal would have remained Jarrett's. There is a good chance that the deal won't be made and Pedicino will go it alone.....The Mountie vs. Koko Ware has been added to the Rumble line-up.....Georgia All-Star Wrestling will have new co-hosts starting at the 1/21 tapings. They are none other than Matwatch's Steve Beverly and our own Scott Hudson. Wonder if the NWA will keep Steve on the 900 line.....Owen Hart has reportedly turned down an NWA contract so he can continue to wrestle in Austria and Japan.....With Honkey Tonk Man quitting the WWF, Vince needs to find two replacements at the Rumble. Andre is out as well. Look for Haku to be one and they'll add someone who I'm sure will be no big name.....Looks like Terry Taylor will be linking up with Pedicino's group. I think it's too early for him to worry about how Dusty would use him. What if he leaves and Joe never gets going. Where does that leave Terry? Exactly where he was before going to Titan.....Ed "The Bull" Gantner died at his home on New Years Eve. Gantner was pushed in the Florida promotion a few years ago but disappeared from the scene due to kidney problems that supposedly had to do with aftereffects from steroid use. Alex Marvez of the Miami Herald reported that Gantner committed suicide. The Orlando paper didn't mention the cause of death and that suicide wasn't confirmed at this time.....Some of the boys from the NWA pulled a gag on The Juicer (Art Barr). In Chicago last Sunday he apparently drank a little too much and the guys shaved off one of his eyebrows, parts of his hair, and used permanent marker on his face. Think Dynamite Kid had anything to do with it?.....New Kids On The Block taped a special for one of the networks at Disney on 1/3 with Hulk Hogan and bodybuilder Lee Haney as special guests.....How come the NWA never mentioned the ending at Halloween Havoc? They just tied the WWF for waste of an angle with that twin ref gimmick.....WWF in Portland, ME drew a whopping 8,000 on 12/27. Super for that building. Actually these days, that's super anywhere.....Ted DiBiase blew out his knee which is why Virgil has been subbing everywhere. He should be back at the Rumble. Are they making Virgil's turn obvious or what?.....WWF has a taping skedded for Orlando on 2/18. Hope it's not squash city again.....Hard to believe the best match on NWA TV this weekend was Buddy Landell vs. Rip Rogers. When did Rogers get this good? I loved his gimmick before the Pillman match on TBS. The marathon man. Funny stuff. I didn't see that Pillman bout yet so if it was better than Rogers-Landell, don't crucify me.....I hate predicting what is going to happen at Wrestlemania but the latest leak has Slaughter beating Warrior at the Rumble for the belt. On the Fox special in February, he will supposedly burn a flag which leads to Hogan coming out with the flag draped over him and winning the belt at the big one in March. I don't buy it. It would be too risky for Vince to burn a flag on TV. You know how many TV stations he would lose. Fox may be crazy enough to let Vince do it though as it would get them enormous publicity. But it would be bad publicity to be sure.....The way Jim Ross was pushing that Meadowlands report for next Sunday makes it sound like something big will happen like Flair regaining the title maybe? What a shock that would be....

A PIECE OF MY MIND BY EVAN GINZBURG

Hey, gang...hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. Also hope this Piece Of My Mind doesn't step on too many toes...

Although I always enjoy Mike Terry's column and appreciate his knowledge of wrestling, he has indeed left himself "wide open" by his negative assessment of Rodney Leighton's writing. I fully understand that people have different tastes, but happen to enjoy Leighton's quirky style and appreciate the fact that he **doesn't** limit his columns to just wrestling. I like the fact that he talks about his own life and feelings and don't consider it "ego-gratification". Some of you may disagree with me and that's certainly your right.

Mike Gunderloy, editor of Factsheet 5 (the "Bible" of the small press) has been a huge Leighton supporter for some time now. Gunderloy covers everything from poetry to music to wrestling, as does Rodney. He has 7,000 subscribers which makes him bigger than Meltzer in terms of readers and certainly in terms of diverse subject matter, so I'm in good company in my appreciation of Rodney's work. I truly feel that wrestling "smarts" are just that- **smart**. They can "handle" material other than just wrestling. Some sheet editors such as myself allow non-wrestling items to slip in, whereas Ron has a more "meat and potatoes" format as Jeff Mullins of Sushi points out. There's **nothing** wrong with that, as Ron puts out one of the very few bulletins I **truly** enjoy and look forward to. Yet Ron should have known Leighton's style. And Rodney should have known the "AR" format before getting involved and ultimately hurt at the rejection. Somehow this whole thing wasn't thought out as well as it should have been.

Although unquestionably unintentional, Mike Terry's article does come off as kicking a guy when he's down and I wanted to show my support for Rodney and his talents. I publish him every month in Wrestling-Then & Now (\$1.25/\$12 year to PO Box 471 Oakland Gdns. Station- Flushing, NY 11364) and will continue to do so. Frankly, I rather see Rodney review some obscure music magazine than read even more about Ole (sorry, Mike!). Ron would disagree, but hey, that doesn't make either of us "heels" now does it?

Re: the Marianne Ryan controversy. I'm sure she's a wonderful lady and don't want to hurt her feelings either, but I guess if AR columnist Klon can critique her writing, so can I. Marianne's column has the most **potential** of any in wrestling fandom. Unfortunately, she just doesn't get into the **heads** of these guys. In the months I've read the column, I've come to the conclusion that Sapphire's a warm, caring person and that's really about it. Other than that you hear about long rides, parties, etc. but under a veil of secrecy that just doesn't give you a sense of these guys as three dimensional people. I don't mean for this to come off as mean-spirited, just as constructive criticism. You certainly have an "insiders" view and an opportunity to do more with what you have. I'm sure it's wonderful traveling with Brett Harte and that he's a great guy as far as you're concerned but it's **just not enough** to **truly** interest me.

I sure hope this doesn't all come off as sour grapes or anything, as the AR Annual was great reading, particularly Scott Hudson's column. I'm going to stick to columnist rather than critic from now on, because I certainly don't enjoy negative attention (speaking of which, I got my first **pan** letter for WT&N which I print and respond to in my latest issue; I certainly know that criticism can and often does **hurt**.)

With that in mind, let's end the juvenile sheet wars!

Hope '91's started out great for all!!!

SCOTT HUDSON'S.....

GEORGIA WRESTLING JOURNAL

IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT Arena Report is the greatest wrestling newsletter in the world (although I would take credit if your offering..) Keep reading...

THE OMNI COLISEUM - Atlanta, Georgia (12-25-90) The Minotaur (Steve DiSalvo) pinned The Juicer in 5:24 with a clothesline/elbow drop combo $\frac{1}{2}$ *..Brian Pillman & Tom Zenk defeated The Freebirds in 13:25 when Zenk pinned Jimmy Garvin with the top rope dropkick **..Michael Wallstreet pinned Tim Horner in 6:24 using the Wallstreet Crash **..The Steiners defeated The Master Blasters in 6:50 with Scott pinned Blade using The Frankensteiner $\frac{1}{2}$ *..The Junkyard Dog pinned The Iron Sheik in 2:13 with a Northern Lights Suplex (No, not really) DUD..Lex Luger & El Gigante defeated The Big Cat & The Motor City Madman in 6:24 with Luger pinning Madman following Gigante's two clothelines DUD..Sting defeated Ric Flair in 17:50 with a countout ****..Doom defeated Arn Anderson & Barry Windham in 13:00 with Butch Reed pinning Windham with a roll-up $\frac{3}{4}$ *..NEWS AND NOTES: The announcement was made that the January 30 Clash of the Champions would be held at CNN Center. This is the rather expansive hotel/shopping/television studio complex that houses CNN, CNN Headline News, TNT, WTBS, as well as the very impressive-looking headquarters of World Championship Wrestling. There is a cavernous atrium at the center of the 17 story building where, I guess, the show will be held. Should make for some very interesting television..Alexandra York did not accompany Michael Wallstreet to the ring..The crowd unmercifully chanted "Wal-Mart" at Wallstreet..The Master Blasters were really terrible in their match and even the finish was botched..The Big Cat (who, incidentally, was referred to as "Curtis 'The Big Cat' Hughes" in a 12-26-90 Atlanta Constitution article) was really off in his match. He more than anyone else made the match a DUD..Flair actually pinned Sting but the match was re-started due to a second referee tattling on Flair for holding the ropes..Arn was the only person who juiced in the main event which was a Cage Match..They return to the Omni on 2-17-91..Upcoming TV tapings are 1-8-91 at the Center Stage, 1-14-91 at the Cobb County Civic Center, and 1-22-91 at the Georgia Mountains Center..(ATTENDANCE: 9100, biggest crowd in ages) OTHER NEWS AND NOTES: Georgia All-Star has a pretty hot feud going on featuring Nick Busick and Steve Lawler. At a recent card in Braselton (the town that Kim Basinger owns), Lawler dressed up as Santa Claus and jumped an injured Busick causing a near riot that had to be broken-up by local police..Lawler is the current Georgia Heavyweight Champion, Jimmy Powell & Festus are the tag team champs and Fabian hold the Television title..Most of the names you hear about being associated with the Global Wrestling Federation are legit. Whether or not they ever work for GWF is anybody's guess but I have not heard any outlandish names being bantered about..No word yet on who will replace Joe Pedicino as host of the Georgia wrestling show but the names rumored are..are..well, thought provoking..On other topics, is there a wrestler in the world (Jushin Riger included) who compares to Curt Hennig? He has had the best career resurgence since joining Titan of anyone..It sure was a surprise to see that the Black Scorpion was Paul Orndorff. He looked just like Ric Flair with a new haircut..I have to admit I am excited about Dusty Rhodes booking the NWA again. He may have learned his lesson about pushing himself and there is no question that the guy knows how to make a promotion interesting..The print ads for the Royal Rumble are the best of that type ever done, no question. HA!

THE LAST WORD...



MARIANNE RYAN'S RESPONSE TO LANCE LEVINE

Dear Ron,

I enjoyed your year-end issue and was glad to be part of it with my column and the letters. In fact, I would like to take this opportunity to address one of those letters.

Originally, I was only slightly disturbed by Lance Levine's comments. I certainly didn't think anything in my columns would ever generate such intense disgust. Then, after reading something Mr. Levine printed in his newsletter Chokehold, I now feel the need to address a situation that seems to be out of control. I am sorry that AR is the chosen forum for this, but I doubt many Chokehold readers would be interested considering the way Mr. Levine has chosen to present me.

I began writing my column because many people seemed to be interested in hearing about some of the experiences I have had with the various wrestlers I am friends with. Of these people, the women tend to fall into two categories: those who want to know anything and everything, and those that consider me a bitch because they are jealous of my relationship with the wrestlers.

As for the men, most of them, Mr. Levine included, seem to put me into one of two categories. I am either incredibly stupid or a whore whose only goal in life is to bed down as many wrestlers as I can. Of course, the fact that these judgements are being made by people who have never met me nor talked to me, and who know precious little about me doesn't seem to dissuade others from believing them to be true.

Now, I would be interested in knowing what makes me stupid? The fact that I share some of my experiences with the readers of AR? Most of the wrestlers I know, know I write the column. They also know me well enough to know that there is a fine line I will never cross between what is meant to be personal and what is acceptable to share.

Next comes the question of my being a "ring-rat." Mr. Levine would have you believe that simply because I ride in the same car with them, have dinner with them, talk on the phone with them, and maybe even spend some time in their rooms that I am sleeping with all of these wrestlers. In AR, he insinuated that I was "blowing my contacts" both literally and figuratively. In his own newsletter, he cites a so-called instance where I was kissing Bret Hart when Jim Neidhart walked in.

That fact that it never happened doesn't seem important. Nor does the fact that my sex life (whether or not it involves any of the WWF) is none of his business. Plus, he seems appalled that I would have the audacity to take a shot at Missy Hyatt. Yet he has no qualms about saying I am a rat for the sole reason that he disagrees with my assessment of Missy.

As for Missy, I would say my credentials merit criticizing her. You see Mr. Levine, this stupid rat has two degrees from Marquette University. One in News-Editorial Journalism, the other in Broadcast Communication. I can assure you none of my professors would disagree with me in saying Missy Hyatt has no business working as a wrestling commentator.

However, Missy wasn't hired for that. Missy was hired because the way she looks guarantees that people like Lance Levine will be watching every week. Her appearance, plain and simple is what got Missy her job. As such, her appearance is subject to criticism. My comments would be no less appropriate if they were in reference to Elizabeth who has her job for the same reason.

I was also shocked that Mr. Levine, a newsletter editor himself, feels free to fabricate quotes and attribute them to me. In fact fact, by stating that Bret and Jim were "so bombed I had to do the driving," (which by the way, I never wrote), he has committed an offense better known as libel. In addition to slandering my character, I would say he's been a very busy boy.

But the truth, whether Mr. Levine cares to admit it or not, is that there are a lot of people who would love to spend as much time with the wrestlers and get to know them as well as I have. Unfortunately, most of them never will. I can help appease their curiosity, at least a little bit, by sharing some of my experiences, and letting them have a glimpse at what these people are like away from the arenas. He is welcome to dislike it if he desires. That doesn't give him the right to jump to conclusions about my character. And just as he does not publish Chokehold for one reader, I know you do not publish AR for Mr. Levine. As long as you and the other readers enjoy my column, I'll continue writing it. Mr. Levine will just have to live with it.

IT'S MY 2-CENTS

by Mike Terry

Happy New Year! One thing I'm thankful for is that all my favorite wrestling newsletters will return to their regular publication schedules.....I really enjoyed WCW's year-end review programs. Funny how many of the matches showed current WWF stars getting beaten, like Lex Luger vs. Mean Mark & The Steiners vs. the Road Warriors. What a strange coincidence! But why would they show Big Van Vader vs. Tom Zenk? They're trying to get Vader over as a baby face, and Zenk over as their big new star, so why show Zenk getting destroyed? Couldn't they find another Vader match?and who picked Z-Man's music? Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Gag me. And how about Z-Man's win streak? Going into Starrcade, he was at 35 consecutive victories. As I recall, his streak ended at Starrcade. But on the next weekend's programs, the streak had miraculously increased to 45 victories. Guess Tommy was a busy fella in that week.

I'll bet one of Vince McMahon's new year's resolutions is to do whatever it takes to get Paul E. Dangerously as his color man and get rid of the Honky Tonk Man. Seems to me that might be possible. If Dusty is the heir apparent to the booker throne, somehow I can't see Paul E. getting along with him.....We get *USWA Challenge* shows in my area now. I've never seen so many screw-job finishes. Their show has more ref bumps than Allen Funt has liver spots.....What have we all done to deserve so many Haku vs. Jimmy Snuka matches?.....Who does Mike McGuirk's hair these days? Buck Zumhofs?

Separated at birth: Mean Gene Okerlund and Cosmo Spacely from *The Jetsons*.....*Prime Time Wrestling's* New Year's Eve special brought us one of the best matches I've seen in quite some time with Ted DiBiase vs. Sean Michaels. The Christmas Eve Prime Time show brought the Lame Retread Gimmick of the Month: Bobby Heenan causes the destruction of his Christmas gift--a Rolex watch from Monsoon. Seems to me we've seen that before in Christmas Past.

I was embarrassed for Dustin Rhodes during the Brother Love interview segment with Dusty. I thought his attempt to imitate his father's delivery was pitiful. You, too?.....Quote of the month: Dusty Rhodes to Brother Love: "You red-faced pumpkin head..".....Congratulations to the WWF for being forthright about Andre the Giant's absence from the Royal Rumble.

Quote of the Month: from Mark Lowrance on the *Legends* show: "I want to say 'hello' to those of you watching us in foreign countries....foreign to the United States, that is." Gee, thanks for clearing that up, Mark.

Whatever happened to Steve Cox? What about Roos--the best shoes you couldn't buy? Or Buzz Sawyer?.....Let me know if you want to start a pool to guess how long Barry Windham will stick around WCW this time.....best angle I've seen for a while involved the match between Michael Hayes and Rick Steiner when Jimmy Garvin pulled the 2 by 4 out of his jacket.....Isn't it about time Michael Hayes writes a new song? Badstreet, USA needs re-paving.....good to see Brian Pillman back from Siberia.....Power & Glory is the slickest team around these days (no pun intended). Wouldn't you say about 80% of that is due to Paul Roma?.....I hope Santa brought Norman a t-shirt that will cover his entire belly. Better yet, I hope Santa brought him a ticket out of WCW.

Is it just me, or has there recently been a de-emphasis of the managers in the WWF? Slick, Jimmy Hart, and Mr. Fuji all just seem so sterile and pointless. Bobby Heenan seems to be the only one with any significant presence and real heat. Still spending a lot of time in Stamford, Boobsey?.....Ricky Morton doesn't get enough credit. Match after match he puts out like crazy. I think he's right up there with Bobby Eaton in terms of his mastery of the sport.

More often than not, I enjoy Dutch Mantell's color commentary. But when he's wrestling, aren't we all a little tired of Jim Ross' cracks about Dutch's hairy back.....It was really sort of sad to see Dick the Bruiser at Starrcade. I can't imagine how his presence would have drawn any fans. His TV promos were incomprehensible and what would make any fan think that this man would ensure law and order? Knowing Bruiser though, he probably feels he drew most of the crowd in the building. Twenty years ago he might have.....Why weren't the Southern Boys on the Starrcade card?.....I think Ric Flair looks great with short hair.

Marianne Ryan--don't pull out of that parking lot. Keep right on doing what you're doing. I subscribe to the newsletters to find out what's really going on and what the guys are really like away from the ring and that's why I enjoy your column. I just wish you could tell more. Too much of the newsletters these days is a meaningless rehash of the same old stuff. We should appreciate some diversity in our lives.

Suggestion for TV tapings. Cut the admission price to \$2 and make it first come, first served.. This not only helps fill the arenas, but gets the rabid fans up front.

To all the staff and readers of Arena Report--I wish you much luck and success in the new year. Until next month, for what it's worth, it's my 2-cents.

CORRESPONDENT'S CORNER

Ak-Sar-Ben Coliseum (NWA)

Omaha, NE

December 5, 1990

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Buddy Landell over The Juicer in a good opener. 2) Master Blasters beat Tim Horner & Allen Iron Eagle. Horner the only one who worked. 3) Michael Wallstreet defeated Harley Race. 4) Sam Houston pinned Barry Horowitz. 5) Brian Pillman beat Motor City Madman in a terrible bout. 6) Scott Steiner over Buddy Landell in a match that Buddy received a broken eardrum in. 7) Ric Flair & Arn Anderson beat Butch Reed & Larry Cameron when Lethal Larry was pinned. Bruce and Teddy Long traded barbs throughout the bout. ATT: 900

Dorton Arena (NWA)

Raleigh, NC

December 13, 1990

Correspondent: Mike Gunter

1) Dutch Mantell pinned The Juicer with his feet on the ropes. D 2) Moondog Rex copied Mantell's move and pinned Italian Stallion in 10 minutes. Dud 3) Konan pinned Bobby Eaton. First 5 minutes were great but then Konan blew out his knee and it was stall time. C+ 4) Ricky Morton & Tommy Rich beat State Patrol. D 5) Junkyard Dog over Bill Irwin in 30 seconds. Dud 6) Tom Zenk used a backslide to beat Motor City Madman. Dud 7) Rick Steiner beat Jimmy Garvin when he pinned Rocky King after a blockbuster suplex. Makes sense to me. D 8) Lex Luger over Big Cat via DQ when Motor Man interfered. C- ATT: 490

Meadowlands Arena (WWF)

E. Rutherford, NJ

December 16, 1990

Correspondent: Elyse Zois

1) Shane Douglas pinned Black Bart. 2) Big Boss Man beat Bobby Heenan. Bobby apologized and BBM walked away and while Heenan gloated, Boss Man attacked and beat him in 20 seconds. 3) Sgt. Slaughter over Dusty Rhodes. Move of the match was when one woman who looked like a Rosatti sister mooned Gen. Adnon. 4) Legion of Doom beat Orient Express when Hawk pinned Paul "Kato" Diamond. 5) Jake Roberts beat Rick Martel via DQ when the ref caught Rick rubbing something in Jake's eyes. 6) Saba Simba samoan dropped Bob Bradley. 7) Warlord and Davey Boy Smith went to a double count out. 8) Hart Foundation & Bushwhackers beat Rhythm & Blues & Power and Glory in an eight man tag when Bret Hart pinned Valentine.

Springfield Civic Center (WWF)

Springfield, MA

December 26, 1990

Correspondent: Dan Reilly

1) Shane Douglas beat Buddy Rose in 9:35 in the second best bout of the night. ** 2) Virgil subbed for DiBiase and pinned Dusty Rhodes in 1:35. I wonder how long it would have taken the million dollar man? Dud 3) Saba Simba pinned Black Bart in 8:05. Bad. -** 4) Rockers downed Power & Glory in 11:50 as Jannetty pinned Roma. Timing was way off in this one. * 5) Ultimate Warrior over Randy Savage via count out. A nice double clothesline was the only good spot in this bout. ½* all for Sherri. 6) Jake Roberts over Rick Martel with the same DQ finish as the above card. Time was only 3:15. Dud 7) Legion of Doom beat Orient Express & Mr. Fuji in 8:30. Fans finally came alive for this one. Good power moves and outside the ring clotheslines by the Roadies. **½ ATT: 3,100

Toledo Sports Arena (WWF)

Toledo, OH

December 30, 199

Correspondent: Doug Hendricks

1) Jimmy Snuka pinned Haku. Dud 2) Virgil beat Dusty Rhodes in under a minute as Dusty missed an elbow in the corner and Virgil rolled him up. Dud 3) Tugb over Dino Bravo. Bravo worked harder running around in circles before the match. Jimmy Hart looked like he rather had been somewhere else. Dud 4) Shan Douglas over Buddy Rose. Rose was so exhausted near the end of the match that his face was beet red and Doug thought he'd have a heart attack. ** 5) Hulk Hogan beat Earthquake. Your standard Hulk match. ** 6) Boss Man pinned Heena in same scenario as everywhere. Haku did a run in but was thwarted. Dud 7) Jake Roberts beat Rick Martel via DQ again. Same bout here except Shane Dougals accidentally gets DDT'd. ** 8) Roadies beat Fuji, Tanaka, and Kato. *

Greensboro Coliseum (NWA)

Greensboro, NC

January 1, 1991

Correspondent: K.C. O'Connor

1) Tim Horner pinned Moondog Rex after he used the doggie's bone against him. K.C. joked to Horner after the bout about Armstrong carrying him when they use to tag and Horner snarled, "Armstrong never carried shit." ½* 2) Horner's friend Brad Armstrong beat The Minotaur on a DQ when DiSalvo threw Brad over the top rope. Dud 3) Southern Boys defeated Master Blasters when Smothers did a splash on Blaster Al Greene. *½ 4) Michael Wallstreet

rolled up Terry Taylor. ** 5) Doom defeated Barry Windham & Arn Anderson. Arn went to piledrive Simmons but Reed came off the top with a shoulderblock and Arn was pinned. Barry juiced. *** 6) Sting pinned Ric Flair with a backslide. They had a new ref in there who was always out of position. Ric grabbed him at one point and said, "Tomorrow morning, you'll be out of a job." Probably a shoot. ***

LETTERS TO "AR"

Annual

Major thumbs up to the "AR" annual. This was much better than Apter's stale PWI yearbook, which I also received today. The layout, with each contributors unique typeset, was refreshingly different. There was also a nice mix of humor, information, and news.

On the critical side, soem of your category award winners mystified me. Sting/Flair as feud of the year? Try botched feud of the year. Nothing went right for these guys. Flair turns heel out of the blue and on the same card Sting ruptures his patella. The promotion overexposes Sting during his recover time. Because of this (and the continuous screw jobs involving the title) Sting's eventual return and win over Flair seemed anti-climactic. Had Flair dropped the belt as a face (ala Hogan), in February, the promotion could have pushed Ric to "living legend" status.

Regarding Warrior, he doesn't really have charisma. His appeal is similar to the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders when they were "over". Fans like his appearance, make-up, and costume. I guess Neidhart is somewhat overrated, but his workrate isn't all that bad in comparison to most Titan guys.

Lastly, I can't understand how Midnight/Southern Boys got your match of the year vote. A bout with Stan Lane and three colorless, but appreciated workers, best of theyear? I look at it this way. These teams can wrestle nightly in 3 1/2-4 star matches that entertain but draw very little money. Hogan/Warrior was an Apter style dream match that somehow lived up to its hype. Anabolic had never been in an "above good" match prior to WM. Hogan and the booking made this title change properly historic and satisfying to the paying customers. What is supposed to be the match of the year (the main event at Wrestlemania) actually delivered for a change and let's acknowledge it.

Steve Genarelli
Melbourne, FL

RL- Who ever said the match of the year had to draw money. If DiBiase wrestled Steamboat in a five star match at some high school gym, would you not vote on it because it was in a gymnasium? Why not credit guys who put out nightly and credit Hogan and Warrior who put out one good match in their careers. (Okay, Hogan has been in a few.) I voted for the bout that had me on the edge of my seat. Hogan-Warrior had me on the edge but Midnight-Southern Boys made me fall off. Thanks for your comments.

Just a note to tell you I really enjoyed your annual. You did a fine job compiling and organizing it, and the finished product made for an enjoyable read. Thanks for taking the time, and making the effort to put it out, and congradulations to yourself, & the other various contributors who wrote some interesting material. A day is always made better when I find an "AR" in the mailbox.

David Williamson
Cleveland, TN

Great year ender, Ron. Your first evr annual cmae out on time; I did not have to vote for anything, and I could read it all in one night! Whereas Jeff Zinger's "GAG Fan Awards" still prove him to be one of the funniest guys on earth, I also got a chuckle at the way Dan Reilly kicked editor and underground fan butt in his "Why The Smarts Hate The WWF". (What say this summer at the Bash, we troll for sharks in Baltimore Harbour and use Dan as bait?) As for Lance Levine's feud with Marianne Ryan (over what she wrote about Missy Hyatt, etc.) I am already getting hot flashes in anticipation of how far and how dirty this one could get.

My only complaint about ARENA REPORT 1990 ANNUAL is that Buddy Landell was not rated in Dave Meltzer's "World Top Ten", or in Steve Beverly's "Best TV Matches", or on your own list as "Most Underated Wrestler". I'm not implying that Shawn Michaels, Pillman-Flair, and Tony Anthony do not have merit, but in my mind Buddy Landell is a superb ring artist whose classic to creative canvas work is pure wrestling Picasso. Landell deserves a break career-wise from the promoters as well as a better shake ratings-wise from the sheet editors. I still maintain that a Flair/Landell tag team would work better than Flair/Anderson and would pop gates at house shows with them feuding against the Stein By the way, the other contributions by Mike Terry, Scott Hudson, John

Lanigan, Dr. Mike Lano, The Ginzman, Klon, and Ryan were all gems. I'm already looking forward to your 1991 sequel.

Jeff Mullins
Pro Wrestling Sushi editor

RL- It's rare when Jeff gives us his serious views on the mat game and his comments were enjoyed immensely. For those that don't subscribe to Sushi, you should give it a try. If you've had a bad day at school or the office this will sure put a smile on your face. Order from Jeff at P.O.Box 36189 San Jose, CA 95158. (By the way Jeff, if we do fish for sharks in B-Mor make sure we don't ram into Paul Hanlin's paddleboat out there.)

Marianne Ryan

I would also have to agree with the comments made by Lance Levine on the "Notes From The Parking Lot" column. The Missy Hyatt comments did not bother me because I know a lot of girls jealous of Missy.

However, now she starts talking about doing GHB. I don't feel that's something to brag about. This "metabolism booster" is finally starting to get print in sheets as I noticed in Brian Tramel's Rasslin Riot. You can't just say GHB is available in select health food stores without telling people of the side effects of Gamma Hydroxy Butyrate.

Finally, after reading how most of your wild times are not suitable for publication make me feel you are a ring rat. A feeling I did not have reading your first couple of columns. I find Ms Ryan's comments very egotizing not Rodney Leighton's. Yes, you are very fortunate to be able to "hang with the guys" but at what price and do these stories really belong in "AR".

Sean Nicholas
Clark, NJ

Lance Levine's letter put a real damper on what was otherwise a great "AR" annual. Marianne's "Notes" are fun and entertaining, two good reasons for subscribing to wrestling newsletters-in case some of us have forgotten those little 'ol reasons among all others. I'm glad you're sticking with Marianne's column regardless of the criticism. I've known Marianne for about a year and a half. She's not a "ring rat".

I've noticed there's a tendency in the sheets to be accused or afraid of being accused of sounding egotistical when writing about one's experiences in the wrestling world. You used the word yourself when you stated your reason for putting off telling us your wrestling bio. We women get the double whammy though. We also have this refreshing little thought to ponder...."am I going to be labeled a ring rat"?

It's pretty apparent that what set Lance off were Marianne's remarks about Missy Hyatt. But, she didn't deserve the tirade of Lance's letter. It's one thing to give her Hell for her comments on Missy, but the rest of his remarks were pretty down and dirty, and also uncalled for. If he doesn't like her column, or her, he can just skip over to the next like the rest of us when we come across an article or writer we have an aversion to.

Hey, these sheets are supposed to be FUN! Speaking of which, it WAS fun reading crazy Jersey Joe again. Oh, to go back to those harmless little feuds of yesteryear.

By the way, add me to the list of those interested in reading your wrestling bio. I just hope no one accuses you of sounding like a Ring Rabbit-or Mat Mouse-or Valet Varmint- or - well, you get the picture.

Happy New Year & Peace on Earth and Goodwill Among All Wrestling Sheet Editors, Contributing Writers, Cartoonists and Letter Writers.

Marilyn Rundle
Gardiner, NY

RL- Hopefully, Marianne answered all you people who questioned her character to your satisfaction in her 1 page answer to Lance. This will not go on in Arena Report forever. Any disagreements you have with someone's opinion are very much welcome in these letter pages. I printed Lance's letter and Marianne's rebuttal. From here on in there will be no personal attacks on anyone in these pages. In other words gang, no name calling. Readers want to read about wrestling, not personal feuds. Thank you.

FINAL WORD

The next issue of "AR" may be a day late as we'll be spending the weekend in Ft. Lauderdale and I won't return until Sunday night.....A correction from annual in Jeff Zinger's fan awards. Margaret Brown was voted Hottest Underage Non Ring Rat. Sorry about that Margaret.....Hope you all enjoyed this ish and we'll see you back in two with some rumblings from the jungle in Miami.

See ya,

Ron